

National

Biblical catechetical  
liturgical Centre for India.

RJS-105

0418

**Community Health Cell**  
*Library and Documentation Unit*  
**BANGALORE**



RTS 105

# **NATIONAL BIBLICAL CATECHETICAL LITURGICAL CENTRE OF INDIA**

**COMMUNITY HEALTH CELL**

**47/1 St. Mark's Road, Bangalore - 560**



418

GR100

**NBCLC**

**at the Service of  
The Church in India**

**BANGALORE—560005**

**1977**

## I. ORIGIN:

The NBCLC is the outcome of a decision taken by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) at their General Meeting in Delhi in October 1966. The Bishops decided to found in Bangalore a National Catechetical and Liturgical Centre to promote and co-ordinate renewal in these two fields. The Biblical Section was added to it in April, 1971. They also constituted 3 Episcopal Commissions connected with the 3 subjects.

Fr. D.S. Amalorpavadass was appointed Director of the Centre and Secretary of the 3 Commissions, and he started work in Bangalore on the 6th of February 1967. It was officially inaugurated by His Eminence Valerian Cardinal Gracias, President, CBCI on the 7th of March, 1967.

From humble beginnings the Centre has gradually developed into the present stage of structure and service, as an instrument of the Spirit for the renewal of His Church in India.

The establishment of the National Centre by the Hierarchy is a providential event, inspired by the Spirit, as it is evident from the urgent needs of the hour, from the favourable reactions all over, from the services asked for and rendered, and from the fruits of the past ten years.



## II. AIM:

To plan and implement on a national level under the guidance of the hierarchy a programme of biblical, catechetical and liturgical renewal in India, within the overall framework and movement of Church Renewal in India and according to the spirit and programme of Vatican II and the exigencies of Post-Vatican Period. Thus it is to be an agency to promote and co-ordinate renewal in collaboration with regional and diocesan agencies.

## III. THE SPIRIT:

From the outset, the National Centre was more concerned with discovering and fostering the spirit that should animate its activities than with the organisation of structures and means of efficient administration however important the latter be. Conscious of the dangers of institutionalism, the Centre wanted to imbibe, to preserve, to incarnate and to spread the spirit that inspired the foundation of this new institution.

Now the spirit of the Centre can be summed up in three words, so to say:

*National*                      *Pastoral*                      *Diaconal*

*National:* The Centre would maintain a comprehensive vision of the Country and the Church at large and be concerned with their problems without, for that matter forgetting the regional, diocesan and local situations, aspirations and needs. It implies on the one hand, planning and implementing a programme of renewal co-

#### IV. POLICY:

The spirit outlined above must influence and has in fact influenced the shaping of the policy of the Centre and the implementation of its programme of renewal. The policy of the Centre may be spelt out in the following clauses:

To be an animating force and executive organ of biblical apostolate, pastoral catechetics and renewed liturgy, to promote and orientate renewal all over India, to foster talents and respect competences, to recognise charisms, and to bring them together for effective and fruitful service, by encouraging initiatives and efforts, ensuring right orientation and co-ordinating activities of isolated nature.

To create an atmosphere of freedom, confidence and fellowship, to offer the warmth of community living and the joy of solidarity to those who work in isolation by being a rendezvous for the whole Church in India for various groups of people, where leaders and promoters of Biblical, Catechetical and Liturgical renewal at various levels and spheres will meet to refresh their spirit, assess their work, exchange views and news, and plan out their future course of action.

To have a long-range vision and policy and to make an overall planning but to implement at all cost a concrete and modest programme of work every two years.

To plan on a national level for the whole country but with due regard for regional autonomy



and pluriformity, and to offer common guidance which will lend itself to adaptation to regional needs and situations.

Not to replace or overlap with the work of diocesan and regional centres/ commissions, but to help them to co-ordinate their activities and to make their services and achievements available to other dioceses; pooling for distribution. According to the principle of subsidiarity the Centre will not do here what others do or what others can and should do and that well.

To aim at serious and solid work of lasting value and to maintain a certain quality and standard worthy of the national level, to initiate, stimulate and encourage creative work as befitting an adult local Church, and originality being an exigency of relevance, authenticity, maturity, and catholicity of the Church.

To situate and integrate our work in the total pastorate of the Church by being in constant contact with and collaborating with the various sections of the pastoral action and likewise to march together and to maintain liaison with the sister churches of the whole world in mutual dialogue and sharing.

This calls for channels of communications, organs of dialogue and structures of operation and collaboration.



## V. ORGANIZATION:

### At the National level:

The Centre functions officially under the auspices of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI), the highest authority in the Catholic Church in India. The latter operates among others by means of Episcopal Commissions for the various sectors of the Pastorate. Three Commissions (commonly called the CBCI Commission for the Bible, the CBCI Commission for Catechetics and the CBCI Commission for Liturgy) are the link between the CBCI and the NBCLC. Each of these commissions consists of three bishops, elected once in two years, and of about 30 appointed consultors from among priests, sisters, brothers and lay people. These Commissions meet about once a year, discuss matters of policy, review the long-term programme and decide upon short-term programmes of activity. The Director of this Centre and the Secretary of each of the three above-mentioned National Commissions has been the same person, from the beginning till now—Fr. D.S. Amalorpavadass.

### At the Regional level:

The National Centre, in order to operate effectively, has set up structures at regional and diocesan levels. It has a net-work of regional centres/commissions and diocesan services. The whole country is divided into regions according to geographical, linguistic and cultural affinities; and every region has either already a regional centre or commission or will have one soon. Each Regional Centre/Commission co-ordinates a certain number of dioceses and promotes biblical, catechetical and



liturgical renewal in those dioceses by means of courses, training programmes, visits, technical guidance, preparation and distribution of aids like syllabi, texts, audio-visual aids etc.

### **At the Diocesan level:**

Each diocese has a full-time or part-time Diocesan Director of Catechetics (DDC), a Diocesan Promoter of Biblical Apostolate (DPBA), and a Secretary of Diocesan Liturgical Commission: (SDLC). Some of them have had a technical and professional training either in foreign institutes or at the higher Institute of the National Centre, in Bangalore.

### **Houses of Formation:**

The National Centre co-ordinates not only the regions and dioceses but also promotes the teaching of and practical training in catechetics and liturgy in about 30 Major Seminaries and religious Scholasticates of India, by regular correspondence with the professors of catechetics and liturgy in seminaries, by proposing to them programmes for teaching and by convening periodical all-India Meetings. It also works with professors of Holy Scripture for the promotion of biblical apostolate.

## REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE

The Centre maintains communication through official correspondence:

- with all the Bishops of India, and the various organs of the CBCI
- with a large panel of Consultors of the 3 Commissions (about 100)
- with the chairmen and secretaries of regional (Linguistic) and diocesan liturgical Commissions, with regional and diocesan catechetical directors, with the professors of catechetics, liturgy and Scripture in Seminaries, with heads of Catechists' training schools.
- with the diocesan and regional promoters of biblical apostolate, and translators of Bible into various languages of India.
- with the Conference of the Religious of India and all its units.
- with all the associations of lay people and lay-apostolate movements.
- with all those who have been trained at the Centre by any of the Courses.
- with all renewal agencies of other sectors of the Pastorate, in view of *pastorale d'ensemble*.
- with several dicasteries of the Holy See, Vatican.
- with all the other Christian Churches, their agencies and institutions.
- with about 100 national and international institutes of biblical studies and apostolate, catechetics, liturgy and pastorate in other countries.



## VI. INSTITUTIONS AND DEPARTMENTS OF THE CENTRE:

### A. *The Institutions:*

In this campus we have 3 kinds of Institutions, all integrated into one:

1. *Official Secretariate* of Three Episcopal Commissions of the CBCI.
2. *Three institutes of research, formation and publication*, in Bible, Catechetics and Liturgy including indigenous Theology, Liturgy and Spirituality, prayer groups and movements, Charismatic renewal and ashrams.

### 3. *Three National Centres:*

National Biblical Centre	COMMUNITY HEALTH CE
National Catechetical Centre	328, V Main, 1 Block
National Liturgical Centre.	Koramangala
	Bangalore-560034

*Triple Centre:*

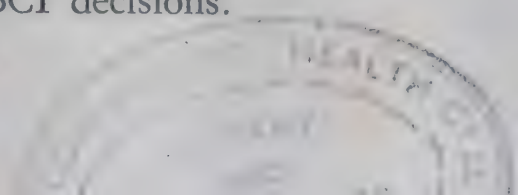
India

A. Biblical, B. Catechetical C. Liturgical

### B. *The Main tasks/departments of each National Centre:*

1. *Planning for Renewal:* Long-term and short-term programmes; initiatives for consultation and action, evaluation and reports.
2. *Executive Secretariate* of the three Commissions of the CBCI to implement CBCI decisions.

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3. *Research, Studies and Experimentation*: through Sub-commissions, Experimentation Centres, Research Seminars and Surveys.
4. *Publication and Information*:
  - Circulars (nearly 60 per year),
  - Newsletters-Bulletins (six to ten per year),
  - Monthly Review '*Word & Worship*',
  - Books and booklets,
  - Documents (ten to twenty per year) etc.
  - cfr. our Catalogue.
5. *Formation*:
  - Five different types of training programmes:
    - National Seminars of 2 weeks duration (about six per year) open to all, each attended usually by 200 to 500 participants.
    - Mobile team Seminars in dioceses (10 to 20 per year) chiefly for the Clergy
    - 4 Month Intensive Training Institute (ITI), once a year
    - Refresher Courses for Bishops and Major Superiors of Religious
    - and evening lectures.
6. *Organisation, animation and co-ordination of renewal at all levels*: National, Regional, Diocesan, Congregation and Institutional: especially through
  - correspondence,
  - communication,
  - reports and
  - All India Meetings (Consultations, once in 3 years)

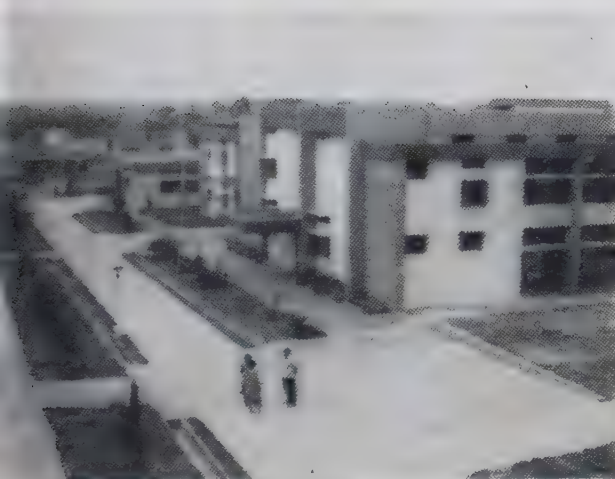




come to NBCLC of the CBCI



Claim it as your own



His Spirit has filled the universe  
and is indeed at work in India  
He has chosen the National Centre  
as an instrument of Renewal  
offering to all who come here  
Ananda and Shanti!



Be at home—Feel at Home

Dying you destroyed our death,  
Rising you restored our life,  
Lord Jesus, come in Glory.



A Risen Community  
experiencing and witnessing to  
His transforming Power.



Listening to the Eternal Sabdha  
and in its strength  
To go forth to meet  
the challenges of life & renewal

"Joined in  
continuous  
prayer  
together  
with Mary  
the mother of  
Jesus"



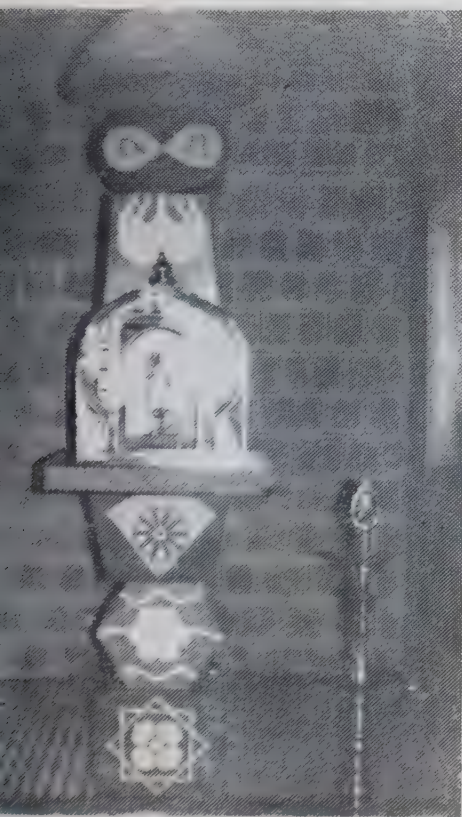
Trying to  
imitate her  
total openness  
and complete  
surrender to  
in all-round  
Disposability



"They went as a body to the temple everyday and they praised God"



ssful (ananda) awareness (Cit)  
e supreme reality (sat);  
Saccidananda



nder the 'Cosmic tree' in  
munion with 'God-with-us'.

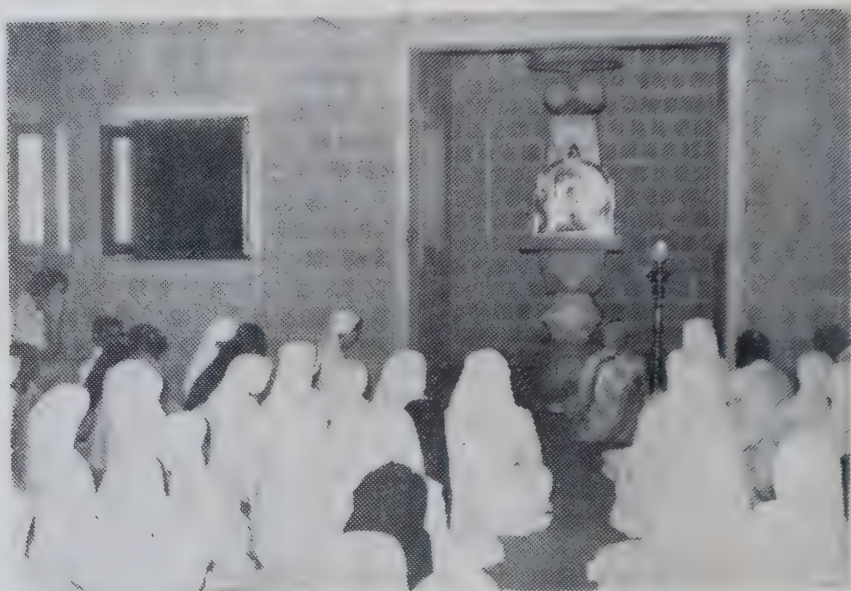


A Eucharistic Community  
breaking bread and sharing



At the feet of the Lord  
in listening, and praising  
adoration and self-surrender.

## A praying Community



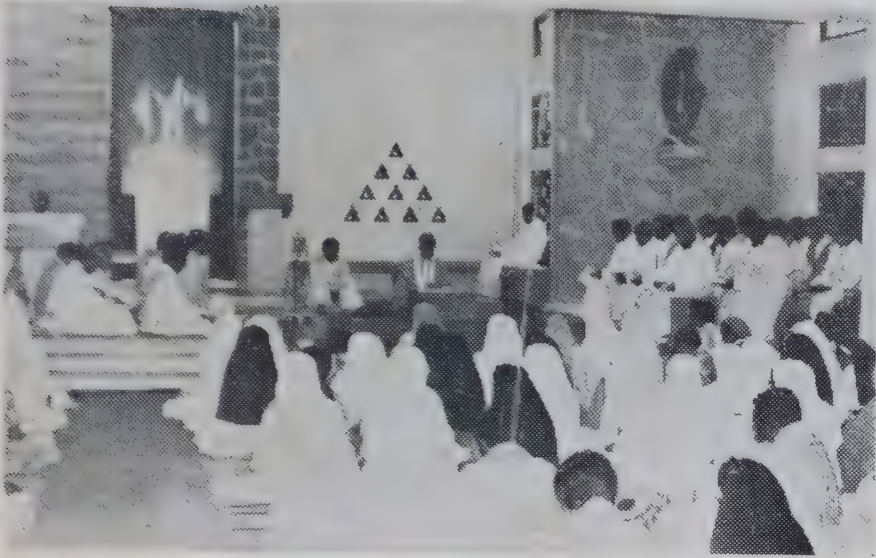
## In praise and Contemplation of Saccidananda



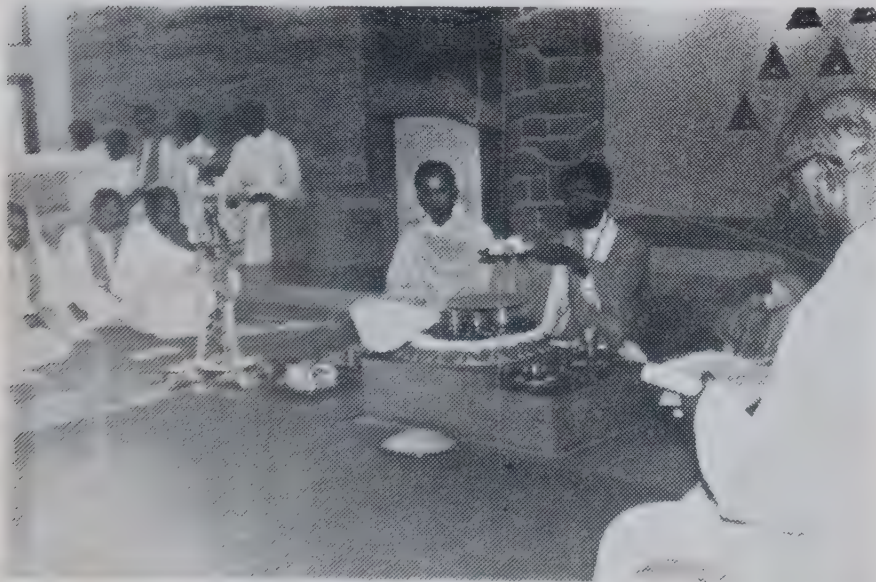
Daily Evening Prayer:  
Vespers, Bhajan, namjap, silence, arati, etc.



Celebration of the Eucharist  
according to an Indian Order

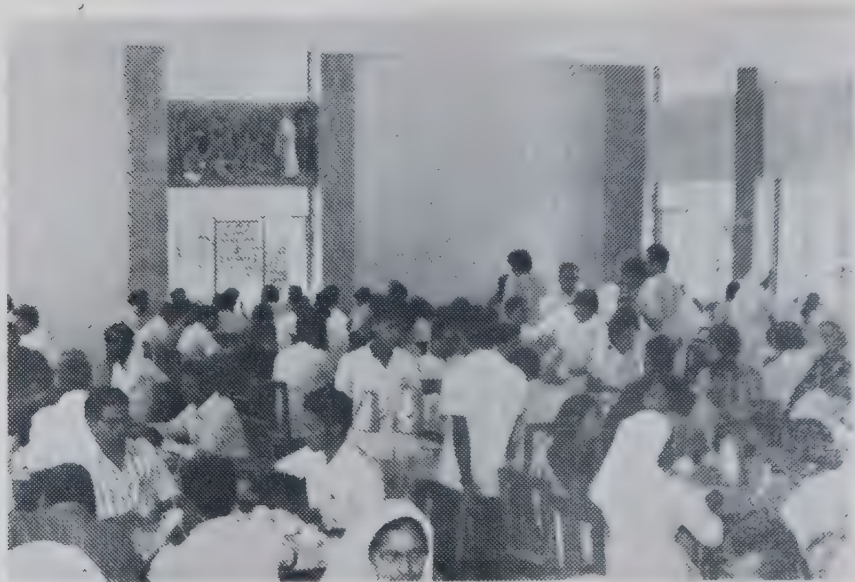


“In imitation of the plan of the Incarnation young churches rooted in Christ, take to themselves in a wonderful exchange all the riches of the nations given to Christ as inheritance.” (AG 22)



“These contribute to the glory of their creator” (AG 22)

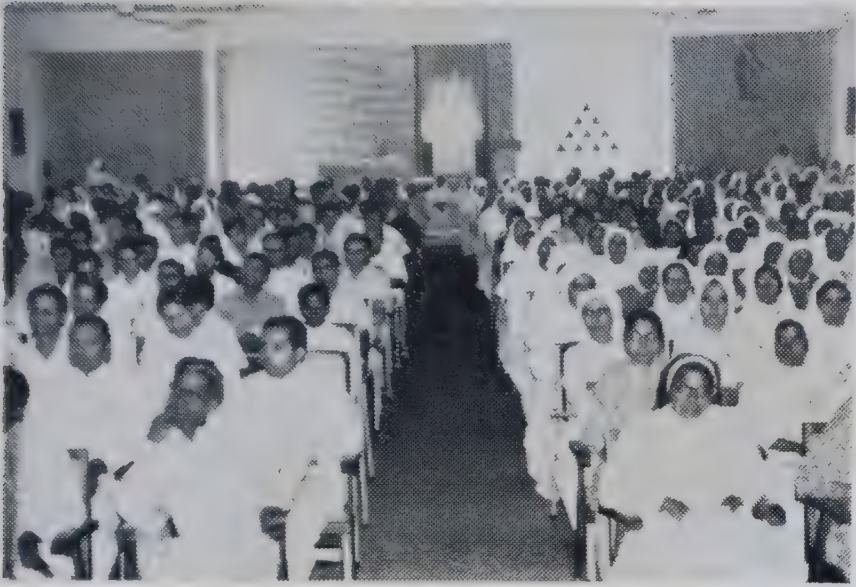
The faithful all live together ... (Acts 2, 44)



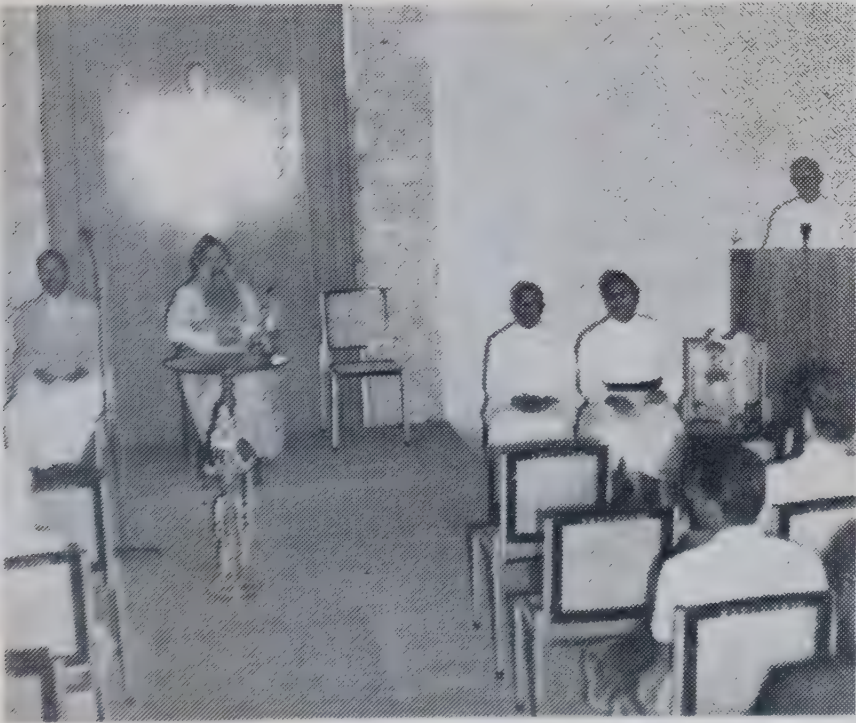
They share their food gladly and generously  
(Acts 2, 47)







Listening to the perennial word of God  
in its various forms  
from morning till night



"Remaining faithful to the teaching of the Apostles  
and to the Brotherhood" (Acts)



A community of love and service



In the fellowship  
of the Church in India and  
of the Universal church

At the service of Word & Worship  
in India.



7. *Media of communication*: information on production and distribution of audio-visual mini media, promotion of liturgical arts;  
e.g.—photo language  
    —wall posters  
    —slides series
8. *Pastoral integration*: regular contact and collaboration with all the other sectors of the pastoral within the country in view of *pastorale d'ensemble* especially with the other commissions of the CBCI with youth movements, lay apostolate organisations and religious orders.
9. *International liaison* with about 100 national and international institutes all over the world.
10. *Communication* with 5 Sacred Congregations and 3 Secretariates of the Holy See, Vatican.

## VII. PROGRAMME OF WORK:

### Long-term and short-term:

A long-term programme (for 25 years) was drawn up, approved by the Commissions and submitted to the CBCI on the occasion of the Inauguration of the National Centre. Every two years the respective Commission and the Centre draws up a (two-year) short term programme of activities, corresponding to the term of the Commission, and submit, a biennial report to the General Meeting of the CBCI (Cfr. e.g. the programmes for 1967-69; 70-71; 72-73; 74-75; 76-77).

## VIII. BOARD OF CONSULTORS:

1. National Biblical Commission: 3 Bishops and 25 Consultors
2. National Catechetical Commission: 3 Bishops 25 Consultors
3. National Liturgical Commission: 3 Bishops and 25 Consultors.

Each subject has a compact and small group of 5 to 10 advisers from among the Consultors.

## IX. THE CAMPUS:

The Centre started in February 1967 in the Catholic Centre of the Archdiocese of Bangalore. Thanks to the interest and generosity of Archbishop D. S. Lourdswamy. Subsequently with the generous subsidies granted by Missio-Aachen, Germany (64%), Pontifical work for the Propagation of the Faith, Rome (28%) and Swiss Lenten Fund, Lucern, Switzerland (8%), we have been able to buy a plot of land measuring  $2\frac{3}{4}$  acres and put up six functional buildings:

two hostel blocks, (Shanti Sadan, Vimal Bhavan), an administrative block with offices (Amar Jyoti), a dining hall-cum-library and audio-visual exhibition (Snehalaya).

Lecture hall-cum-workshops (Brahmavidya) and a Blessed Sacrament Chapel in Indian architecture (Saccidananda).

The construction started in September 1970 and was almost completed by June 1973.



## X. THE STAFF:

There are two kinds of staff:

- a) The administrative staff consists of about 30 members: priests, brothers, sisters and lay people, resident and non-resident, appointed by the director.
- b) The teaching staff consists of about 50 lecturers drawn from all over India. They are invited to contribute to specific programmes like Seminars, Courses, Institutes and Consultations.

## XI. CO-OPERATION UNIVERSAL AND OVERWHELMING

A healthy climate prevails at the National level for a serious work of renewal, and we are living a fine epoch in the history of the Church in India: and this is a matter for rejoicing. During the ten years we have been here establishing the Centre, planning the work, getting things moving, making contacts, listening to people, taking the first steps, launching the renewal movement, implementing various projects, receiving feed backs and evaluating the situation and the efforts we have been overwhelmed by the wonderful spirit of collaboration that exists in the Indian Church. During these ten years we have been witnesses of boundless enthusiasm, unreserved collaboration and positive response. Ultimately, it is the spirit of the Council—which is the spirit of Pentecost that is permeating us, one and all, through in different degrees and at

varying speeds. The power of the Spirit and the might of God's Word are evidently at work in the Church of God in India.

Against this background the prospects for the future cannot but be bright. We know that the whole Church in India is with us and that the Spirit will continue to operate through us. We pray and hope that we may continue to be Spirit-permeated, Spirit-charged, Spirit-led, Spirit-recognizing, Spirit-experiencing and Spirit-sharing.

Alleluia!

Praise the Lord!!

Great and numerous have been His marvels  
in and through the NBCLC!!!  
during the decade (1967-1977)

Bangalore  
6th February 1977

Director and Staff  
NBCLC

COMMUNITY HEALTH CELL  
326, V Main, I Block  
Koramangala  
Bangalore-560034  
India



Year	Serial No	DIOCESE	STATE	DA
1974	28	Kohima- Imphal	Nagaland- Manipur	28th Jan
	29	Dibrugarh	Assam	4-6 Feb.
	30	Tezpur I	Assam	12-15 Feb
	31	Shillong	Meghalaya	16-19 Feb
	32	Tura	Meghalaya	21-23 Feb
1975	33	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh	26-28 Feb
	34	Bangalore II	Karnataka	15-19 Jul
	35	Jullundur	Punjab	30 Dec.
	36	Goa-Daman I	Goa	16-22 Fe
	37	Mangalore II	Karnataka	4-7 Mar.
	38	Tellicherry	Kerala	17-21 Ma
			Assam	
1975	39	Silchar	Mizoram	1-7 July
			Tripura	
	40	Bhagalpur	Bihar	4-8 Augu
	41	Goa-Daman II	Goa	28th Sep
	42	Chikmagalur	Karnataka	6th-10th
	43-44	Cuttack- Bhubaneswar-		
		Berhampur	Orissa	
1976	45	Tezpur II	Assam	26th-30th
	46	Verapoly	Kerala	3rd-7th M
	47	Raigarh & Ambikapur	Madhya Pradesh	9th-14 N
	48	Jalpaiguri	West Bengal	16th-20th
	49	Raipur	Madhya Pradesh	16th-20th
	50	Indore	Madhya Pradesh	22nd-27th
	51	Kottayam	Kerala	March 2
	52	Ernakulam I	Kerala	27 June-
	53	Ernakulam II	Kerala	23-29 Ja
1977				
				Total

GRAND TOT

DATE	PARTICIPANTS				Total
	Priests	Brothers	Sisters	Lay People	
2nd Feb. 74	20	—	30	—	50
74	10	10	40	—	60
p. 74	17	—	32	—	49
p. 74	20	60	100	—	180
b. 74	6	—	9	—	15
b. 74	50	—	30	—	80
y 74	50	—	—	—	50
74-3rd Jan. 75	10	—	80	—	90
b. 75	60	—	10	—	70
75	132	—	—	—	132
ar. 75	70	—	—	—	70
75	15	—	5	—	20
st 75	34	—	—	—	34
st-4th Oct.	95	—	—	—	95
Oct.	45	—	—	—	45
		—	—	—	70
h Oct.	70	—	—	—	27
Nov.	27	—	—	—	117
Nov.	117				
Feb. 1976.	38	2	—	—	40
h Feb. 1976	12	—	—	—	12
h Feb. 1976	20	—	—	—	20
h Feb. 1976	20	3	7	—	30
9-April 2	45	15	—	—	60
1 July	60				60
n 1977	110	—	—	—	110
al	2465	179	1548	240	4432
AL	5211	1087	6701	1625	14624



